

CONFIDENTIAL

25 September 1962

SOVIET BUILT FISHING PORT IN CUBA

1. Is this story likely?

The presence of the Soviet Fisheries Minister in Havana, the well publicized Soviet fishing activity in the Atlantic and regular passage of Soviet whaling fleets through Caribbean waters all make the story credible in the eyes of the general public and world opinion, but much is left in doubt in the mind of anyone familiar with the Soviet fishing industry and its collateral pursuits. The story is a slick one with ample believability for propaganda purposes. It is the first announcement of actual establishment of a Soviet controlled and operated facility within Cuba, and is calculated to appear innocuous by presenting a facade of commercial enterprise of mutual advantage. It is not likely that the prime purpose for establishment of the port is the one announced by the Cuban Government.

2. If the story is not likely, what would be the purpose of the base?

Soviet establishment of a fishing port in Cuba is a clear indication of Soviet intentions to carry out at a steady pace a step by step increased presence in Cuba. Establishment of a commercial port makes it more likely that Soviet Naval ships might make "good will" visits to Cuba to set further precedents, always making their presence appear to be normal and "non-offensive." A further step could be the gift of a short range submarine --- proclaimed as "defensive" in purpose --- followed by a submarine repair facility, which could ultimately lead to the establishment of a full-fledged advance submarine base for the Soviet Fleet such as we have in Holy Loch --- and with particular propaganda reference to our base at Guantanamo. Each probable step would lay the groundwork for the next, and each further step would depend on the force and nature of U.S. reaction.

3. What would be our ability to find out the real story?

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CIA [redacted] advises we can eventually find out by an "all-source effort," requirements for which are being levied by the Washington intelligence community.

4. When could we find out?

CIA further advises that there is no immediate way. Barring a lucky break, it will take some time, mostly depending on the rate of development of the port.

DIA review(s) completed.

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DF-16

SECRET

5 September 1962

JSCP INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY OF THREAT

The Communist Bloc stronghold in Cuba increasingly poses a serious threat to the US. The Soviets continue to build up Communist Premier Castro's military forces at an unprecedented crash rate: strengthening the Cuban ground forces with additional and substantial quantities of modern weapons, including amphibious carriers, tanks and self-propelled guns; establishing a comprehensive surface-to-air missile defense network (SA-2's); providing missile-firing Komar-class patrol craft; and expanding Cuban Air Force capabilities (60 MIG's) with the addition of MIG-21's. The Sino-Soviet Bloc's step-by-step development of a military beachhead in Latin America has reached a critical-decision threshold: Under the cover of this augmented military potential, depending on US reaction to the crash buildup, the Bloc may now be willing to consider the deployment in Cuba of advanced offensive weapons systems (SSM's) under Soviet control and the establishment of an advanced submarine-base counterpart to our base at Holy Loch, Scotland. Regardless, the Soviet Union will continue to strengthen its showplace stronghold in Cuba and to exploit it to promote Communist revolution throughout Latin America, employing the spectrum of tactics to suit the varied situations of instability in the different countries. At the same time, the Soviets will seek to avoid provoking US intervention in Cuba or a US-USSR military confrontation. Underlying the Soviet threat in Latin America is a well-organized subversive movement, centered in Castro's Cuba, to exploit the natural tendency of entrenched oligarchies to resist the growing demand for radical social reform. What is seen by radical revolutionary elements in Latin America is that, while others have talked of fulfilling the aspirations of the masses, Bloc-backed Castro has actually accomplished a radical, militarily secure social revolution in Cuba, and has done so in defiance of the US with the support of an apparently more powerful patron.

Attachment F4

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